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| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/042,184  | 01/11/2002  | Adamo Sala           | 07040.0117          | 3943             |
| 22852   | 7590        | 03/22/2006           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER<br>LLP<br>901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW<br>WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413 |             |                      | KNABLE, GEOFFREY L  |                  |
|   |             | ART UNIT             |                     | PAPER NUMBER     |
|   |             | 1733                 |                     |                  |

DATE MAILED: 03/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                                |                     |  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b>         | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |  |
|                              | 10/042,184                     | SALA, ADAMO         |  |
|                              | Examiner<br>Geoffrey L. Knable | Art Unit<br>1733    |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 December 2005.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 20-55 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 38-55 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 20-30 and 33-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 31 and 32 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. Claims 20-27, 29 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rost (US 4,138,307) as applied in the last office action.
3. Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rost (US 4,138,307) as applied above, and further in view of Kubinski et al. (US 4,010,058) as applied in the last office action.
4. Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rost (US 4,138,307) as applied above, and further in view of Landsness (US 4,547,251) as applied in the last office action.
5. Claims 34-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rost (US 4,138,307) as applied above, and further in view of at least one of [Wilde et al. (US 4,131,500), Balle et al. (US 3,645,828) and Ruppel (US 4,362,592)] as applied in the last office action.
6. Claims 31 and 32 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Note the last office action.
7. New claims 38-55 are allowed for the reasons given by applicant.
8. Applicant's arguments filed 12-29-2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to the rejection of claims 20+ over Rost, applicant has argued that Rost "does not teach or suggest either gasket 47 or plates 27 as providing a support

seat for a carcass sleeve." This argument has been considered but is unpersuasive. First, it should be noted again that it is the examiner's position that plates 27, not gasket 47, reads on the presently claimed supporting members. Further, it seems readily apparent that the outer radial surfaces of the plates define the drum surface and thus necessarily form the support for the carcass sleeve. Note for example col. 6, lines 7-17 clearly indicate that the surfaces of the plates define the working surface of the drum against which the "rolling operations" (i.e. stitching) will be effected. Applicant's arguments in this regard are therefore unconvincing.

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Geoffrey L. Knable whose telephone number is 571-272-1220. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on 571-272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Geoffrey L. Knable  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1733

G. Knable  
March 19, 2006